

Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services  
ACF Form 812-TANF Data Reporting  
Quarter 3 – FFY 2011

Background

Funding for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program was extended through September 30, 2011 by the Claims Resolution Act of 2010. The Act included new reporting requirements on States relating to engagement in work activities by recipients of cash assistance. In Nebraska, the work requirement portion of TANF is referred to as Employment First. Corresponding cash assistance benefits are provided through the ADC program.

This summary and analysis relates to Nebraska's submission of the data for the 3rd quarter of FFY 2011, including the months of April, May and June 2011.

Since 1997, Nebraska has met the federally mandated 50% Work Participation Rate for TANF recipient families. Our unofficial FFY 2011 WPR is 51.0% through March 2011. The summary data from the supplemental report reflects this trend.

Summary

Nebraska provides benefits to families through two funding sources. For this report period 19,700 families received assistance through TANF funds. In addition, 4,100 families received benefits paid with State Only funds. The average TANF families per month during the report period are 6,567 and the average number of Separate State Program (SSP) cases per month is 1,366. When compared to the previous Form 812 report, these numbers reflect a slight decrease in Nebraska's cash assistance caseload for each month. Supplemental data for a sample of approximately 175 TANF cases and 175 SSP cases has been provided.

The data provided in the supplemental reports reflects what Nebraska reported in the ACF-199 Quarterly report for the same period. Reasons why sampled cases didn't meet rate included insufficient number of hours engaged in the activity, or engagement in limited work activities beyond the allowable time limits.

On average, for the time period of April to June 2011, 39 of the 175 participants in the SSP sample were exempt from work based on the state exemption for pregnant and post-pregnant individuals. This impacted the percentage of SSP participants with no hours of participation, an average of 49.9% SSP cases had no hours of participation compared to 29.9% of TANF participants with no hours of participation. Of the TANF sampled participants within this category there are various barriers noted to their participation, data has been provided data on those participants who will be sanctioned for non-participation. (8.7%)

Conversely, 53% of the SSP sample and 71% of the TANF sample were engaged in some countable activities. Some of these individuals did not have enough hours to meet rate but they were actively participating.

Because of Nebraska's documentation and verification processes, there were no sample cases where countable activities didn't meet standards.

For the TANF caseload, Nebraska had one case in May where the individual was engaged in non-countable work activities. The SSP provides benefits to participants who are seeking a Bachelor's Degree and supplemental data reveals 1 of the 175 participants was engaged in the Post Secondary Education program which is a non-countable work activity.